



MARAD Update



Official Journal of the Maritime Administration

Volume 4, Issue 6

MARAD's Western Region Director Promoted to Rear Admiral in the United States Maritime Service

Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian promoted Francis (Frank) Johnston, the Maritime Administration's Western Region Director, on March 24, 2005, to the rank of Rear Admiral in the United States Maritime Service.

A special event was held in the Rear Admiral's honor on April 30 at the California Maritime Academy, which was attended by friends and supporters of the maritime industry including Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Marie, the Rear Admiral's wife, and children.

Frank Johnston is a distinguished alumni of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Following graduation there, he served with distinction in the U.S. Navy. He actively sailed in the U.S. Merchant Marine from 1962 to 1966.

As the senior maritime management official in the western region of the United States, Frank has devoted much time to working with the faculty, students, and staff at the California Maritime Academy. His commitment to education and teaching is exemplary and it shows in his many voyages on the Training Ship *Golden Bear*. Frank has been a driving force in helping graduates from our merchant marine academies develop their careers.



Rear Admiral Francis Johnston, United States Maritime Service, standing in front of the TS Golden Bear.

In addition to his domestic and sea duty, Frank has worked in port facilities in Massachusetts and California and has served internationally, managing the Port of Ras Al Mishab, Saudi Arabia, and then directing transportation for one of Saudi Arabia's largest trucking companies.

MARAD Headquarters Observes National Maritime Day 2005

MARAD Headquarters' National Maritime Day observance played to a packed house on May 19 in the U.S. Navy Memorial Auditorium in downtown Washington, DC. Honorees and family members gracefully accepted acknowledgment for their contributions to the country and the maritime industry.

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, as keynote speaker, praised the current work of U.S. mariners. "It is in part due to the service of the U.S. Merchant Marine that America sustains the strongest military force the world has ever known," she said. "When the history of this era is written, the U.S. Merchant Marine will be remembered as part of the effort to toppling a brutal regime and helping to build a stable, democratic Iraq."

A video presentation told the story of the creation of the U.S. Merchant Marine flag and seal, and the ceremony honored Captain George Bark, USMS, for his role and the family of the late Walter Oates for his role.

Carmella LaSpada, Executive Director of the White House Commission on Remembrance, spoke movingly about the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress, asks Americans wherever they are on Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m., local time, to pause in an act of national unity (duration: one minute) to honor those who died for our freedom.

Capt. George Bark, USMS, (middle) receiving a certificate of appreciation for his role in the creation of the Merchant Marine flag and seal from Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian (right). Kevin Krick, Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy, standing on the left.



News From North Atlantic Region—

New Fast Ferry Terminal Moves Short Sea Shipping Forward in Port of New Bedford



Left to Right: Philip Chase, Jr., Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Port Council; Robert McKeon, North Atlantic Region Director, MARAD; Frederick Kalisz, Jr., Mayor of New Bedford, and his son Ricky; Kerry Healey, Lieutenant Governor, State of Massachusetts; Astrid Glynn, Deputy Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; and David Olivera, Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority Port Council.

Photo by Joe Duvall

North Atlantic Region Director Robert McKeon recently joined the Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, the Mayor of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and other key state and local port officials to dedicate a new 8,500-square-foot fast ferry terminal in the Port of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The city of New Bedford is one of three ports selected nationwide as a Portfields Demonstration Pilot Port. The Portfields Program is a federal interagency partnership to address the economic and beneficial use of brownfields in local port communities. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

With federal, state, and city support, New Bedford is revitalizing its waterfront, improving marine transportation, and developing additional commercial port facilities.

The new terminal is central to these efforts. The city is planning to operate a high-speed commuter rail service from downtown Boston directly to the terminal and provide intermodal transportation for passengers, vehicles, trucks, and

freight moving between New Bedford, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. New Bedford-based New England Fast Ferry transported 78,000 passengers between New Bedford and Martha's Vineyard in 2004, and expects to carry more than 120,000 passengers this year. Also planned is a fast freight ferry service from New Bedford that is expected to remove up to 12,000 trucks per year from area highways. Short sea shipping-related opportunities in New Bedford also include the use of existing brownfield sites as container storage and distribution centers.

Arrivals and Departures—

Joe Duvall Completes Successful Rotational Tour at North Atlantic Region Office

Joe Duvall, Transportation Leadership Program Participant, has completed his rotational assignment at the North Atlantic Region Office and moved on to additional assignments at MARAD Headquarters. During his three months at the Region Office, Joe worked extensively with the Region Director and Maritime Program Specialist to network with senior industry and port officials and implement agency programs related to port security, intermodal operations, supply chain dynamics, and port and vessel operations within the 11-state North Atlantic Region.

Joe developed a website for tracking other Class of 2006 Transportation Leadership Participants. MARAD employees may access it at <http://intramarad.dot.gov/HRWEB/images/TrackingTLP.pps>.



Left to Right: William McDonald, Maritime Program Specialist, North Atlantic Region; Joe Duvall, Transportation Leadership Program Participant; and Robert McKeon, Region Director, North Atlantic Region

Images from MARAD's National Maritime Day 2005 Observance at the U.S. Navy Memorial



Mary Oates and daughter Linda Salins receiving a certificate of appreciation posthumously presented to Walter Oates for his role in the creation of Merchant Marine flag and seal from Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian



The Maritime College, State University of New York, Color Guard presenting colors



U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao giving the keynote address



Part of the audience at the observance

Carmella LaSpada, White House Liaison and Executive Director, White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance



The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Mariners Chorus under the direction of Cynthia Bell

MARAD's South Atlantic Region Volunteers Clean Up Wetlands for Earth Day 2005

By Willie Barnes, South Atlantic Region

To celebrate Earth Day, volunteers from the Maritime Administration's South Atlantic Region conducted a cleanup at a local ecological gem, the Pescara Creek Wetlands, located across the street from a commercial shipyard in Norfolk, Virginia. On April 22, volunteers from the Region's office donned coveralls, gloves, and work boots and marched into an urban wetland area to clean it up and plant a river-friendly tree. A juvenile redbud tree was planted, and it will be ready to flower by Earth Day next April.

The South Atlantic Region team of volunteers led by Region Director Nuns Jain walked through upland brush, muddy shorelines, and native wetland plants to retrieve over 2500 pounds of trash and debris. The team also discovered and removed a section of chain link fence and a street sign from under a bridge next to the creek.

The South Atlantic Region staff and volunteers were very appreciative of being highlighted by the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation as the Department's Earth Day 2005 activity. This clean-up effort continues to help in the improvement of water quality for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The team is happy to partner with the local community and the non-profit conservation group, the Elizabeth River Project, in helping to preserve a valuable natural resource. In the March issue of the *MARAD Update*, Region staff was recognized for its achievements in The Elizabeth River Project's River Stars Program. The Region Office received an Achievement Level Award at the River Stars Recognition Luncheon in Portsmouth, Virginia.



Left to Right: Steve Jackson, Willie Barnes, and Nuns Jain planting the red bud tree.



Left to Right: Beth Vakevainen, Jennifer Fallis, Steve Jackson, Willie Barnes, and Nadine Miltier

MARAD Update

The ***MARAD Update*** is published by the Maritime Administration's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. This publication is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information or to submit questions or concerns, telephone (202) 366-5807, visit the MARAD website at www.marad.dot.gov, or e-mail pao.marad@marad.dot.gov.

Publisher

John Jamian

Managing Editor

Susan Clark

Editor

Ella Thomas